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1998 # 4

IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Jerry Mallet, Interim Director

Project W-170-R-22

Progress Report



FURBEARERS

Study III, Job 1

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August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998

April 1999
Boise, Idaho

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PROGRESS REPORT SURVEYS AND INVENTORIES

STATE: Idaho **JOB TITLE:** Furbearer Survey
PROJECT: W-170-R-22
SUBPROJECT: 1-7 **STUDY NAME:** Statewide Fur Harvest Survey
STUDY: III
JOB: 1
PERIOD COVERED: August 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998

STUDY OBJECTIVES

1. Estimate the size, structure, and trend of harvested furbearers.
2. Determine hunter and trapper attitudes and preferences and inform trappers/hunters of the biology and status of furbearers.

PROCEDURES

1. Analyze the mandatory trapper reports to estimate trends in furbearer harvest and the dollar value of species.
2. Continue to collect bobcat harvest information through the mandatory export tag program.
3. Estimate the sex and age structure of the bobcat harvest from analysis of lower jaws and tooth sectioning. Construct population models for bobcats.
4. Conduct surveys to determine the population status of selected furbearers.
5. Prepare an annual report on furbearer harvest.
6. Conduct public meetings to inform the public and obtain information on hunter/trapper acceptance of season regulations.
7. Make presentations on furbearer biology to the public.

ABSTRACT

Trapping licenses sold during the 1997-98 season totaled 752, which included 610 residents, 130 junior residents (through 17 years of age), and 12 nonresidents. While the number of licenses sold was down from the previous year, these figures tend to reflect the vagaries of an industry influenced by changing fashions and highly fluctuating fur prices (i.e., trapper numbers tend to fluctuate with fur prices and demand). Harvest reports were submitted by 586 (78%) of the 752 licensed trappers for the 1997-98 season. From this total, 404 (85%) of 473 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report form. These trappers, on the average, spent 35.6 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 4.4 hours afield per day. The fur harvest, based on 473 reporting trappers who trapped, was 33,452 pelts, down from 36,124 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 22,941 pelts (69%) were sold for a value of \$166,991.73. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$7.28 each, compared to \$10.47 for the previous season. The 473 trappers harvested an average of 81 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 56 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$7.28 and 56 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$407.68. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those that did not submit a report, was 41,299 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$206,162.62. The muskrat, followed by the beaver, red fox, coyote, and raccoon, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$80.25 for bobcats (\$122.88 in 1996-97) to \$2.47 for muskrats (\$3.89 in 1996-97). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top five furbearers include the beaver, muskrat, bobcat, red fox, and coyote. Pelt values were down for all furbearers except skunk and weasels. Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 925 animals from a 2-month December and January season; 17 additional animals were reported as road-kills or unknown cause of death. The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (43% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle and Clearwater Regions. Juvenile (less than 1 year of age) bobcats made up only 15% of the 1997-98 harvest. In 1995-96 and 1996-97, juvenile bobcats constituted 26% and 25% of the harvest, respectively. There is no evidence that the current harvest regime is negatively impacting furbearer populations in Idaho. Furthermore, with trapper numbers and fur prices down for the past several years, there is less pressure on furbearer populations. Trappers reported 328 nontarget birds, mammals, and reptiles trapped during the 1997-98 season. The Department's goals and objectives for furbearers are being met for season structure and maintaining populations and distribution. Some management programs are not being met due primarily to inadequate funding and Legislative resistance to a mandatory trapper education program. Department regional furbearer coordinators continue to maintain a liaison with trappers, other agencies, organizations, and user groups. They continue to serve an important role in furbearer management and in meeting the goals and objectives of the furbearer management plan.

METHODS

Mandatory Harvest Report

By Idaho law, licensed trappers are required to report to the Department the number of wild animals they catch, kill, and pelt during the open season and the amount received for the sale of these pelts. This report must be submitted by July 31 for the previous trapping season. Until the 1996-97 season, this information appeared on the back of the trapping license. Once the Department switched to point-of-sale machines for the purchase of licenses, this option was no longer available. A new mandatory trapper report has been used since the 1996-97 season (Appendix 1). This self-addressed and stamped folding card is sent to trappers each spring so they may conform to Idaho law. Mandatory trapper reports are used to estimate the statewide harvest of furbearers by licensed trappers, the distribution of the harvest, and the market value of the state's furbearer harvest. Questions on how many days the trapper spent afield scouting and setting and checking traps, and how many hours, on the average, the trapper spent afield each day are included. These questions were initially included in the mandatory report beginning with the 1993-94 trapping season, and are used to gather information on trapping effort. Results of this information are then projected to estimate the statewide trapping effort both in total hours and days afield.

Idaho Trapper Survey

Mandatory trapper reports may also be used to collect specific survey data as needed. We included a request for information about Canada lynx and snowshoe hare in the 1997-98 Mandatory Trapper Report card (Appendix 1). This request was precipitated by a potential listing of the lynx under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The input from trappers can be important, as the secretive nature of the lynx and other forest carnivores generally makes it difficult to obtain good data on their status.

Bobcat Check-ins, Jaws, and Export Tags

By Fish and Game Commission regulation, trappers and hunters are required to have all bobcats tagged with export tags by the Department within 10 days after the close of the trapping/hunting season. During the period 1977-78 through 1980-81, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service export tags were made available to trappers and hunters, but they were not mandatory. Trappers and hunters are also required to turn the lower jaw from all bobcats taken in to the Department and to report the sex of the animal, harvest location, date harvested, and method of take (trapping, calling/hunting, with hounds, incidental hunting). This regulation has been in effect since the 1981-82 season. During the 1979-80 and 1980-81 seasons, it was not mandatory to turn in jaws, but the Department issued export tags only when jaws were submitted. During the 1997-98 season, trappers and hunters had their bobcats tagged and made their reports at Department offices. It is unlawful to possess raw, untagged bobcat pelts after 10 days following the close of

the season, and to sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached.

Beginning with the 1990-91 trapping season, the Commission established a statewide annual harvest quota of 3 lynx. It also required trappers and hunters to report lynx kills to the Department within 24 hours and to turn in the entire carcass. Following the 1995-96 season, the Commission voted to close the season on lynx and not allow any type of harvest.

Lower jaws of bobcats harvested during 1986 through 1989 were processed by the Department's laboratory where canines were removed and sex and age (to year) were determined for each animal over 1-1/2 years of age following procedures established by Johnson, et al. (1981). Beginning in 1990, adult and juvenile female bobcat and lynx canines with closed root canals were aged by Matson's Laboratory, Milltown, Montana. Juveniles with open root canals and adult males were aged by the Department's laboratory. Canines from all adults have been aged by Matson's Laboratory since the 1995-96 season.

Mandatory harvest report data continue to be used to estimate the total statewide bobcat harvest by Department administrative region and big game management unit. Tooth data have been used to evaluate the sex and age composition of the harvest. Collectively, these data are useful in evaluating the effects of the harvest on the statewide bobcat population.

Nontarget Catches

By Commission rule, any trapper who catches a nontarget species (any species for which the season is closed) that is dead shall: (1) prior to removing the animal, note on the back of the trapping license the species of animal caught, the date, and shall sign his or her name; (2) remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession; and (3) notify the Department through the local conservation officer, subregion, or regional office within 72 hours to make arrangements for Department personnel to retrieve the animal. The regulation has been in effect since the 1988-89 season. Since the 1990-91 trapping season, the Department has paid trappers \$5.00 for each accidentally-caught fisher and river otter they turned in to the Department. Beginning with the 1996-97 season, trappers may receive \$5.00 for each accidentally-caught lynx. Most nontarget animals turned in are sold at the Department's annual auction. Money from the sale of these animals was deposited into the general account in 1989 and 1990. Since 1991 the proceeds have been earmarked for use in trapper education.

STATEWIDE RESULTS

Trapping License Sales

Trapping licenses sold during the 1997-98 season totaled 752, and included 610 residents, 130 junior residents (through 17 years of age), and 12 nonresidents (Table 1). While the number of licenses sold was down from the previous year, these figures tend to reflect the vagaries of an industry influenced by changing fashions and highly fluctuating fur prices (i.e., trapper numbers tend to fluctuate with fur prices and demand).

Trapper Days Afield

For the 1997-98 season, 404 (85%) of the 473 license holders who indicated they trapped provided information on trapping effort on the mandatory trapper report form (Table 2). These trappers, on the average, spent 35.6 days afield setting and checking traps and scouting trapping areas; they averaged 4.4 hours afield per day. Statewide, all active trappers spent an estimated total of 21,680 days afield. These figures represent a reduction in trapping effort from the previous year.

Mandatory Harvest Reports

Harvest reports were submitted by 586 (78%) of the 752 licensed trappers for the 1997-98 season. The information submitted on these reports was used to compile the reported and estimated statewide harvest and market value of the different furbearer species taken, including the badger, beaver, bobcat, civet (western spotted skunk), coyote, marten, mink, muskrat, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, and weasel. Trapping and hunting season dates for furbearers for 1997-98 appear in Appendix 2.

The fur harvest, based on 473 reporting trappers who trapped, was 33,452 pelts (Table 3), down from 36,124 the previous trapping season. Of this total, 22,941 pelts (69%) were sold for a value of \$166,991.73. Trappers sold their pelts for an average of \$7.28 each, compared to \$10.47 for the previous year. The 473 trappers harvested an average of 81 pelts per trapper and sold an average of 56 pelts. Based on an average pelt price of \$7.28 and 56 pelts sold per trapper, trappers earned an average income of \$407.68. The estimated harvest for all trappers, including those that did not submit a report, was 41,299 animals taken, with an estimated statewide pelt value of \$206,162.62.

The muskrat, followed by the beaver, red fox, coyote, and raccoon, were the most frequently caught species. Price per pelt ranged from an average of \$80.25 for bobcats (\$122.88 in 1996-97) to \$2.47 for muskrats (\$3.89 in 1996-97). In total statewide value of pelts sold, the top 5 furbearers include the beaver, muskrat, bobcat, red fox, and coyote. Pelt values were down for all furbearers except skunks and weasels.

We attempted to examine the distribution of trapping effort in Idaho by plotting the county location where a trapper reported trapping 1 or more furbearers (Fig. 1). For example, 27 trappers reported trapping 1 or more animals in Owyhee County in southwest Idaho, so we assigned the number 27 to that county. While trapping pressure was quite variable throughout the state, trappers trapped furbearers in all counties.

Harvest data reported by trappers were compiled, by county, for individual furbearer species (Table 4). These data were then plotted on maps to better visualize the distribution of the harvest for each species (Figs. 2-11). While harvest distribution is partly a function of where trappers live, it allows us to further examine areas of higher harvest to ensure furbearers are not over-harvested.

Mandatory Bobcat Tagging and Harvest Reports

Bobcat trappers and hunters checked 929 animals from a 2-month, December and January season; 3 additional animals were reported as road-kills and 10 confiscated animals were sold at the Department's annual auction for a total of 942 (Table 5). The lynx season remains closed; no accidental captures were reported. The largest number of bobcats harvested (43% of the total) came from the Department's Panhandle and Clearwater Regions (Table 6). Trapping accounted for 60% of the statewide bobcat harvest, followed by the use of hounds (33%). Hound hunting for bobcats clearly predominated in the northern two regions of the state.

Bobcat age and sex distribution data based on the analysis of 413 bobcat teeth for 1995-96, 948 teeth for 1996-97, and 913 teeth for 1997-98 are displayed in Table 7 and Fig. 12. Harvested bobcats ranged in age from young-of-the-year or juvenile (depicted as "0") to 16 years. The average age of all bobcats harvested during the 1995-96 season was 2.78 years, 3.11 years for 1996-97, and 3.5 years for those harvested in 1997-98 (Table 7). For all 3 seasons, the average age of harvested males was a year older than females. During the 1995-96 season, the 4-year-old age group appeared overrepresented, while the 3-year-old age class was underrepresented in 1996-97. However, this was not the case for bobcats harvested in 1997-98. And, unlike the previous 2 seasons, 2-year-old bobcats were more prevalent in the harvest than juveniles, which comprised only 15% of the harvest (26% juveniles in 1995-96 and 26% juveniles in 1996-97). Males made up 61% and females 39% of the total harvest during the 1997-98 season. Conversely, 72 juvenile females and 36 juvenile males were harvested (Fig. 13). As expected from a healthy, reproducing population, the harvest is skewed towards the younger-aged cohorts.

Sex and age data collected from harvested bobcats since the 1989-90 season suggest that the state's population is healthy and productive (Table 8). As separate cohorts, adult males and juveniles generally make up a larger percentage of the harvest than females. The only anomaly appears to be the 1993-94 season when females comprised the largest segment of the harvest (44%) and juveniles and subadults (animals less than 2 years old) were underrepresented in the harvest (14%). Bobcats less than 2 years of age comprised 26% of the harvest in 1997-98, the second lowest since 1989-90. While the bobcat harvest decreased from 1,018 in 1996-97 to 942 in

1997-98, too many factors, including weather (influences trapper accessibility and trapping conditions) and pelt prices, influence the harvest to the point that any assessment of the 2-month bobcat season would be premature. However, the current age structure of the harvest suggests that bobcats are not likely being overharvested.

Juveniles continue to represent the largest single age group of female bobcats harvested (21%), suggesting that there is suitable recruitment (Table 9). However, female bobcats 6 years old and older also represented 21% of the harvest, the highest this group has been represented in the harvest for the past 13 years. Sargeant (1991) analyzed 9,079 records for bobcats harvested from 1981 through 1991 and concluded that "increasing trends in proportion of older female bobcats during the 1980s and the continued high incidence of juvenile animals in the harvest combine to suggest that Idaho bobcat populations are in little danger of overharvest," and "...while pelt prices remain low, further restrictions in seasons or methods of take will probably not be necessary." Undoubtedly, some local populations in highly accessible areas may be more vulnerable to trapping and hunting than those in more remote areas, as suggested by Koehler and Hornocker (1989). While there are many remote areas in Idaho that act as "refugia" and contribute to more accessible populations where bobcat numbers may be reduced due to harvest pressure, the Department will continue to monitor characteristics of the harvest to avoid the possibility of overexploitation.

1997-98 Idaho Trapper Survey

As part of the mandatory trapper reporting process, trappers were asked if they had any unreported information about the current and past status and distribution of Canada lynx and snowshoe hares in Idaho (see Appendix 1). Based on 576 mandatory trapper reports, 17 trappers indicated they had additional information on lynx in Idaho and 30 indicated they had snowshoe hare information. An additional 168 trappers provided a variety of comments on trapping in Idaho.

Reported Nontarget Catches

Trappers reported 328 nontarget animals trapped during the 1997-98 season. A nontarget animal is one for which the season is closed at the time of capture, or there is no open season. Nontarget species reported trapped included a variety of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Nontarget animals with minimal injury were released at the site of capture by the trapper. Dead animals were turned in to the Department where marketable items were sold at the annual auction. Trappers were paid \$5.00 each for 46 otters submitted to the Department for reimbursement. Since the 1990-91 trapping season, 250 otters have been turned in to the Department for reimbursement (Table 10).

During spring 1998, the Department sold, at public auction, traps and furbearing animals accumulated during the previous year, including nontarget catches, animals killed to solve depredation problems, and animals found dead. Funds were received from the sale of confiscated traps (\$235.00) and pelts or parts of beaver (\$107.50), bobcat (\$1,260.00), red fox (\$35.00),

raccoon (\$10.00), and river otter (\$1,392.50). The total was \$3,040.00 (less a commission of \$144.40), or \$2,895.60. Since 1991, \$16,619.16 has been deposited in the fish and game account from these furbearer-related items sold at the Department's annual auction. These funds are earmarked for use in trapper education-related activities and for materials.

Furbearer Surveys

The Department did not conduct any coordinated surveys for furbearers during 1997-98. Limited snow surveys may be initiated during winter 1998-99, with the goal of establishing statewide snow survey routes during winter 1999-2000. Targeted species will include, but not be limited to, fisher, lynx, marten, and wolverine.

Trapping and Transplanting

A proposed plan to release lynx trapped in Canada to areas of the Clearwater National Forest was put on hold due to controversy and the pending listing of the species on the ESA. The project will be reviewed once a decision is made whether or not to list the lynx.

Department staff cooperated with Wyoming in the capture and implantation of a radio transmitter in a wolverine trapped in the Teton Mountain Range. Due to the limited amount of information available about wolverines in the intermountain west, this instrumented animal will contribute valuable data to our database.

Lynx and Their Prey

Little is known about lynx in Idaho or predatory-prey relationships between lynx and snowshoe hares in the forested areas of the state. In 1997-98, the Department cooperated with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service in an attempt to gather as much information as possible about the historical and current status of lynx in Idaho. More than 75 people were interviewed and historical records searched, resulting in 215 lynx occurrence records from 1874-1998. This information is documented in a draft Canada Lynx In Idaho Species Conservation Assessment.

Lynx are dependent on snowshoe hares for their survival. In an effort to understand the potential suitability of Idaho to sustain lynx populations, a detailed snowshoe hare and red squirrel research project was initiated in the Clearwater National Forest of north Idaho in cooperation with the Forest Service and University of Idaho. Two graduate students are currently gathering data on both species which will be useful in our analysis of the lynx in Idaho.

Furbearer Depredation

Beavers continue to be live-trapped in several regions to solve damage complaints. If feasible, these animals are translocated to other areas in attempts to improve riparian habitat or increase the

local beaver population. Department conservation officers frequently issue Furbearer Depredation Control Permits (Form WL-2) to individuals as a valuable tool in handling beaver and other furbearer damage complaints quickly and efficiently. Beginning in January 1995, Department administrative regions were required to keep accurate records on the number of permits issued and the number of animals removed. This information is being retained by each region in case questions surface regarding past depredation complaints. Beaver are typically the most common species in which kill permits are issued, followed by muskrat, red fox, and raccoon.

Administrative Activities and Coordination

Department staff participated in a variety of furbearer-related activities during the year. Several state office and regional staff are involved in the Forest Carnivore Committee, a group of individuals representing state and federal agencies and nongovernmental organizations. The primary focus of this group involves forest carnivores, including the marten, fisher, lynx, and wolverine. Melquist represented the Department at the annual Idaho Trappers' Association convention in Salmon, Idaho, where the lynx listing issue and its potential impact on trapping was an important topic. Department staff throughout the state were involved in recommending and drafting changes that resulted in obtaining Commission approval of the 1998 and 1999 trapping regulations.

Management Implications

In 1990, Department regional furbearer coordinators (RFCs) were appointed in each region and the McCall office in compliance with the 1991-95 Furbearer Management Plan. The function of the RFCs is to serve as a liaison with the Idaho Trappers Association, trappers and other user groups, and other agencies on trapping and furbearer issues. While the RFCs have diverse natural resource backgrounds, they all share some level of expertise or interest in furbearer management in Idaho. These RFCs continue to play an important role in maintaining good working relations with trappers and other agencies and are helping the Department meet its furbearer management goals and objectives.

Observations made by Department personnel, trappers, and hunters during this reporting period suggest that the state's trapping and hunting seasons have not adversely impacted furbearers or predators (coyote, weasel). Variable and unpredictable pelt prices continue to influence trapper/hunter participation and, consequently, the harvest of furbearers. Available information also suggests that current furbearer populations are either static or increasing, but not declining.

We believe the Department is meeting its management plan goals and objectives regarding furbearer season structure, maintaining populations and distribution, and some management programs. Conversely, some strategies proposed in the furbearer plan, including development of habitat management guidelines, mandatory trapper education, and monitoring of some species, have not been implemented. Work on these strategies will continue in the following year, although the Idaho Legislature has resisted passage of a mandatory trapper education program.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Koehler, G. M. and M. G. Hornocker. 1989. Influences of seasons on bobcats in Idaho. J. Wildl. Manag. 53 (1): 197-202.
- Sargeant, G. S. 1991. Ten-year harvest summary for Idaho bobcats January 1981 to January 1991. Unpublished report. 44 pages.

Table 1. Trapping license sales and usable harvest reports received from trappers for the 1985-86 through 1997-98 trapping seasons.

Year	Licenses Sold			Reports Received (%)	Reporting Trappers Who Trapped (%)	Estimated Active Trappers ^b
	Residents (Jr.)	Nonres.	Total			
1985-86	1,370	23	1,393	1,071 (77)		
1986-87	1,473	24	1,497	1,112 (73)		
1987-88	1,564	30	1,594	1,338 (86)		
1988-89	1,266	22	1,288	1,045 (81)		
1989-90	921	17	938	722 (77)		
1990-91	636	7	643	508 (79)		
1991-92	678	8	686	478 (70)		
1992-93	666	7	673	525 (78)		
1993-94 ^a	588	8	596	489 (82)	425 (87)	518
1994-95	738	10	748	547 (73)	432 (79)	591
1995-96	631	7	638	445 (70)	362 (81)	518
1996-97	772	7	779	590 (76)	463 (78)	610
1997-98	740 (130)	12	752	586 (78)	473 (81)	609

^a Number of active trappers were not estimated prior to the 1993-94 season.

^b Estimated active trappers is determined by multiplying the number of licenses sold by the percent of trappers who reported that they actually trapped, based on the total number of reports received.

Table 2. Estimated trapper days afield, 1993-94 through 1997-98, based on trappers' reports received.

Year	Reporting Trappers Who Trapped	Trappers Reporting Time Afield (%)	Projected Statewide Time Afield				
			Average Time Afield/Trapper		Estimated Active Trappers	Total	
			Hrs/Day	Days/Yr		Hours	Days
1993-94	425	285 (67)	5.0	36.4	519	93,432	18,871
1994-95	432	330 (76)	4.4	35.5	591	92,314	20,981
1995-96	362	271 (75)	4.1	38.4	517	80,139	19,546
1996-97	463	441 (95)	4.9	42.7	608	127,212	25,962
1997-98	473	404 (85)	4.4	35.6	609	95,394	21,680

Table 3. Statewide harvest and pelt value of furbearers trapped during the 1997-98 season, based on 473 trappers who reported they trapped.

Species	Trappers Reporting a Harvest	Animals Taken	Pelts/Trapper	Animals Sold (%)	Money Received	Price/Pelt	Estimated Statewide Pelt Value ^b	% of Total Value	Rank by Value	1996-97 Rank
Badger	46	145	3	52 (36)	675.75	13.00	834.26	.4	9	9
Beaver	295	4,076	14	2,613 (64)	44,327.10	16.96	54,724.81	26.5	1	2
Bobcat	120	484 ^a	4	347 (72)	27,846.98	80.25	34,378.99	16.7	3	3
Civet	5	11	2	0 (0)	00.00	00.00	00.00	0	13	13
Coyote	211	1,922	9	1,236 (64)	17,356.84	14.04	21,428.20	10.4	5	4
Marten	34	537	16	168 (31)	2,244.59	13.36	2,771.10	1.3	8	8
Mink	144	758	5	388 (51)	3,769.64	9.72	4,653.88	2.3	7	7
Muskrat	278	21,273	77	15,476 (73)	38,207.33	2.47	47,169.54	22.9	2	1
Raccoon	193	839	4	569 (68)	7,155.30	12.58	8,833.70	4.3	6	6
Red Fox	227	2,853	13	2,007 (70)	24,873.20	12.39	30,707.65	14.9	4	5
Skunk	77	455	6	41 (9)	351.00	8.56	433.33	.2	10	10
Weasel	31	78	3	41 (53)	160.00	3.90	197.53	.1	11	11
Other	3	21	7	3 (14)	24.00 ^c	8.00	29.63	<0.1	12	12
Actual Totals (81%)	--	33,452	81	22,941 (69)	166,991.73	7.28	--	100		
Estimated Totals (100%) ^b	--	41,299	--	28,322	--	--	206,162.62	--		

^a Of the 929 bobcats tagged by Department personnel, 536 were reported as trapped.

^b Estimated totals and statewide pelt value were determined based on the assumption that the harvest reported by trappers represented 81% of the actual harvest if all active trappers had submitted a harvest report.

^c Three skunks were trapped and sold for a total of \$24.00.

Table 4. Distribution of the furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers for the 1997-98 season.

County	Beaver	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Fox	Bobcat ^a	Weasel	Coyote	Skunk	Civet	Badger
Ada	75	316	39	60	38	11	1	19	19	0	10
Adams	48	79	3	13	17	27	0	52	2	0	2
Bannock	95	454	11	17	33	10	0	4	6	0	0
Bear Lake	200	2,128	210	30	330	28	9	88	43	0	9
Benewah	125	222	7	17	0	38	4	3	0	0	0
Bingham	185	422	9	85	133	24	0	21	43	0	2
Blaine	131	427	2	0	3	13	0	3	0	0	0
Boise	170	19	5	5	32	10	0	8	0	0	0
Bonner	100	424	11	16	72	53	1	16	0	0	0
Bonneville	297	777	7	28	161	17	3	66	10	0	1
Boundary	94	116	1	0	0	22	10	0	0	0	0
Butte	22	0	0	0	36	21	0	32	0	0	0
Camas	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	40	0	0	4
Canyon	139	1,514	90	25	124	1	1	22	3	0	5
Caribou	215	789	38	31	40	6	4	11	3	0	2
Cassia	2	126	29	9	19	18	0	28	4	0	0
Clark	35	46	1	4	14	7	0	12	0	0	0
Clearwater	12	20	14	13	0	42	13	2	0	0	0
Custer	147	73	6	5	30	15	0	69	0	0	0
Elmore	113	321	2	18	20	25	1	21	0	2	1
Franklin	191	3,180	73	39	27	8	4	18	8	0	0
Fremont	191	1,447	32	22	96	0	1	13	17	0	0
Gem	316	76	9	13	26	12	0	0	1	0	0
Gooding	38	1,503	43	17	16	11	0	34	3	0	2
Idaho	0	8	4	11	0	96	0	21	0	0	0
Jefferson	64	1,261	2	17	170	1	0	33	5	0	1
Jerome	1	14	0	1	13	0	0	20	6	0	0

Table 4. Distribution of the furbearer harvest in Idaho by county, as reported by trappers for the 1997-98 season (continued).

County	Beaver	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Fox	Bobcat ^a	Weasel	Coyote	Skunk	Civet	Badger
Kootenai	122	1,155	2	19	0	47	3	10	27	0	0
Latah	22	61	18	10	0	32	2	31	12	0	7
Lemhi	86	100	3	49	124	23	0	111	21	0	6
Lewis	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	34	421	0	1	10	11	0	51	14	0	0
Madison	131	854	3	15	58	0	0	12	15	0	0
Minidoka	0	163	30	6	81	3	0	34	8	0	0
Nez Perce	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	5	0	0	1
Oneida	16	23	1	4	9	5	0	6	0	0	0
Owyhee	159	992	15	24	21	121	2	261	36	4	5
Payette	123	122	9	7	66	0	0	15	1	0	4
Power	6	0	1	9	6	9	0	15	1	0	4
Shoshone	206	67	3	10	0	73	0	6	0	0	0
Teton	53	307	9	7	106	0	0	37	3	0	0
Twin Falls	25	667	5	13	199	61	0	221	6	5	41
Valley	76	347	11	7	102	4	1	38	0	0	1
Washington	20	21	0	3	7	14	0	63	0	0	2

^a Harvest data for bobcats are the most complete because hunters and trappers are required to have all animals tagged by the Department.

Table 5. Bobcat and lynx pelts checked in at regional and subregional offices by trappers and hunters and tagged with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service export tags, 1986-87 through 1997-98. The lynx harvest season was closed following the 1995-96 season.

Year	Pelts Tagged	
	Bobcat	Lynx
1986-87	1,034	0
1987-88	1,035	0
1988-89	952	0
1989-90	738	1
1990-91	523	0
1991-92	640	2
1992-93	754	0
1993-94	533	0
1994-95	794	0
1995-96	421	0
1996-97	1,018	0
1997-98	929*	0

* Three road-killed bobcats and 10 animals sold at the Department's annual auction were not included in this total.

Table 6. Bobcat harvest report for the 1997-98 season according to IDFG region and method of take. Percentages rounded to the nearest whole number.

REGION	TOTAL HARVEST		METHOD OF TAKE (%)				
			Trapping	Calling	With Hounds	Incidental Hunting	Unknown
Panhandle	215	(23)	96	0	112	7	0
Clearwater	159	(17)	42	4	100	13	0
Grangeville	26	(03)	8	0	17	1	0
Southwest	112 ^a	(12)	92	3	8	5	4
Garden City	35	(04)	22	2	8	3	0
McCall	42	(05)	23	0	11	8	0
Magic Valley	170 ^a	(18)	149	10	6	5	0
Southeast	68 ^a	(07)	33	2	27	6	0
Upper Snake	67	(07)	48	5	10	4	0
Salmon	35	(04)	23	0	8	4	0
TOTAL	929 ^b		536(58)	26(03)	307(33)	56(06)	4(NA)

^a One additional road-killed bobcat was turned in to the Department.

^b Ten additional bobcats were sold at the Department's annual auction.

Table 7. Sex and age distribution of Idaho bobcats harvested during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons based on physical examination for sex and canine tooth examination and cementum analysis. Percent of totals are in parentheses.

AGE ^a	<u>TOTAL NUMBERS</u>		<u>NUMBER OF MALES</u>		<u>NUMBER OF FEMALES</u>	
	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98	1996-97	1997-98
0	236 ^b	139 ^c	80	36	104	72
1	110	102	58	51	52	51
2	137	171	73	106	64	65
3	71	134	42	98	29	36
4	109	62	74	37	35	25
5	101	80	70	57	31	23
6	73	89	47	59	26	30
7	38	49 ^d	28	35	10	13
8	26	35	18	28	8	7
9	19	24	15	15	4	9
10	11	13	7	7	4	6
11	4	1	2	1	2	0
12	6	2	5	0	1	2
13	3	5	1	3	2	2
14	2	5	2	3	0	2
15	2	1	1	0	1	1
16	0	1	0	1	0	0
Totals	948	913	523 (58)	537 (61)	373 (42)	344 (39)
Avg. Age:	3.11	3.5				
Avg. Age (M):	3.71	4.0				
Avg. Age (F):	2.69	3.1				

^a Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

^b Total age 0 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 52 of unknown gender.

^c Total age 0 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 31 of unknown gender.

^d Total age 7 is more than the sum of male and female because it includes 1 of unknown gender.

Table 8. Sex and age of harvested bobcats, based on examination of canines and cementum analyses, 1989-90 through 1997-98^a. Percent is based on the total number of teeth examined.

Year	Teeth Examined	Adult Females	(%)	Adult Males	(%)	Juveniles ^b & Subadults (<2 Years)	(%)
1989-90	725	184	(25)	293	(40)	248	(34)
1990-91	418	92	(22)	148	(35)	178	(43)
1991-92	581	126	(22)	247	(42)	208	(36)
1992-93	754	168	(22)	268	(36)	318	(42)
1993-94	504	223	(44)	211	(42)	70	(14)
1994-95	776	218	(28)	253	(33)	305	(39)
1995-96	413	102	(25)	150	(36)	159	(38)
1996-97	948	217	(23)	385	(41)	346	(36)
1997-98	913	221	(24)	450	(49)	241	(26)

^a Milk canines and those with open root canals were aged as juveniles, male canines with closed root canals were aged as adults, female canines with closed root canals were sectioned and the annuli counted, sex based on canines with closed canals was determined by measurement (Johnson, et al. 1981). Sex of juveniles was not determined.

^b Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

Table 9. Ages of harvested female bobcats determined by cementum analyses, 1985-86 through 1997-98^a. Percentages are in parentheses.

Year	Age ^b							Total Sample
	0	1	≤2	2	3	4	5	
1985-86			213 (51)	89 (21)	33 (08)	34 (08)	30 (07)	422
1986-87			220 (47)	51 (11)	72 (15)	44 (09)	35 (07)	472
1987-88			312 (61)	43 (08)	38 (07)	27 (05)	31 (06)	516
1988-89			338 (70)	54 (11)	16 (03)	15 (03)	23 (05)	484
1989-90			171 (49)	70 (20)	40 (11)	17 (05)	10 (03)	348
1990-91			107 (54)	35 (18)	27 (14)	9 (05)	5 (02)	199
1991-92			117 (51)	42 (18)	24 (11)	14 (06)	8 (04)	229
1992-93			159 (49)	70 (21)	36 (11)	18 (06)	15 (05)	327
1993-94			89 (34)	66 (26)	42 (16)	24 (09)	7 (03)	258
1994-95			152 (41)	53 (14)	58 (16)	48 (13)	17 (05)	370
1995-96	39 ^c (23)	27 (16)	66 (39)	25 (15)	22 (13)	18 (11)	13 (08)	168
1996-97	104 ^d (28)	52 (14)	156 (42)	64 (17)	29 (08)	35 (09)	31 (08)	373
1997-98	72 ^e (21)	51 (15)	123 (36)	65 (19)	36 (10)	25 (07)	23 (07)	344

^a Between 1991-92 and 1994-95, half the juveniles with open root canals were assumed to be females. During previous years, the sex reported by trappers and hunters was used.

^b Age reflects age at last birthday, using April as the approximate date of birth.

^c There were 31 additional juveniles of unknown gender.

^d There were 52 additional juveniles of unknown gender.

^e There were 31 additional juveniles of unknown gender.

Table 10. Fisher and otter caught accidentally by trappers and turned in to the Department for a payment of \$5.00 each, 1990-91 through 1997-98.

Species	Region Where								Total
	Animal Was Trapped*								
Turned In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Unk.	
<u>Fisher</u>									
1990-91		1							1
1991-92		1							1
1992-93		1							1
1993-94									0
1994-95		3							3
1995-96		1							1
1996-97									0
1997-98									0
Total		6							7
<u>Otter</u>									
1990-91	1	4	3	2	1	3	6		20
1991-92	6	1	6	11	3	4	5		36
1992-93	2	4	5	2		4	4	2	23
1993-94	10	5	5	2	1	1	8		32
1994-95	10	9	5	1	1	1	4		31
1995-96	3	1	7	4		4	8		27
1996-97	7	1	8	4		6	9		35
1997-98	9	2	12	10	3	3	7	0	46
Total	48	27	51	36	9	26	51	2	250

* Regions: 1=Panhandle, 2=Clearwater, 3=Southwest, 4=Magic Valley, 5=Southeast, 6=Upper Snake, 7=Salmon

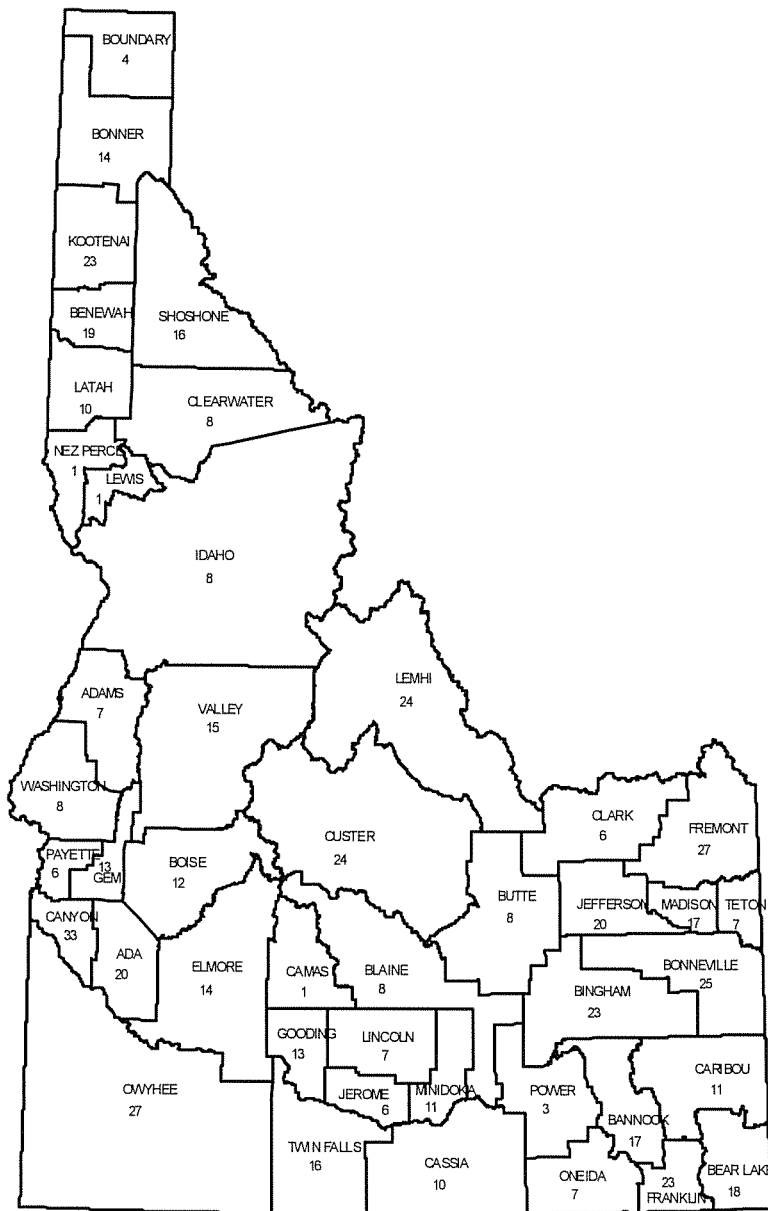


Fig. 1. Distribution of trapping effort, according to county, based on trapper response when asked which county or counties they normally trapped in (n=567).

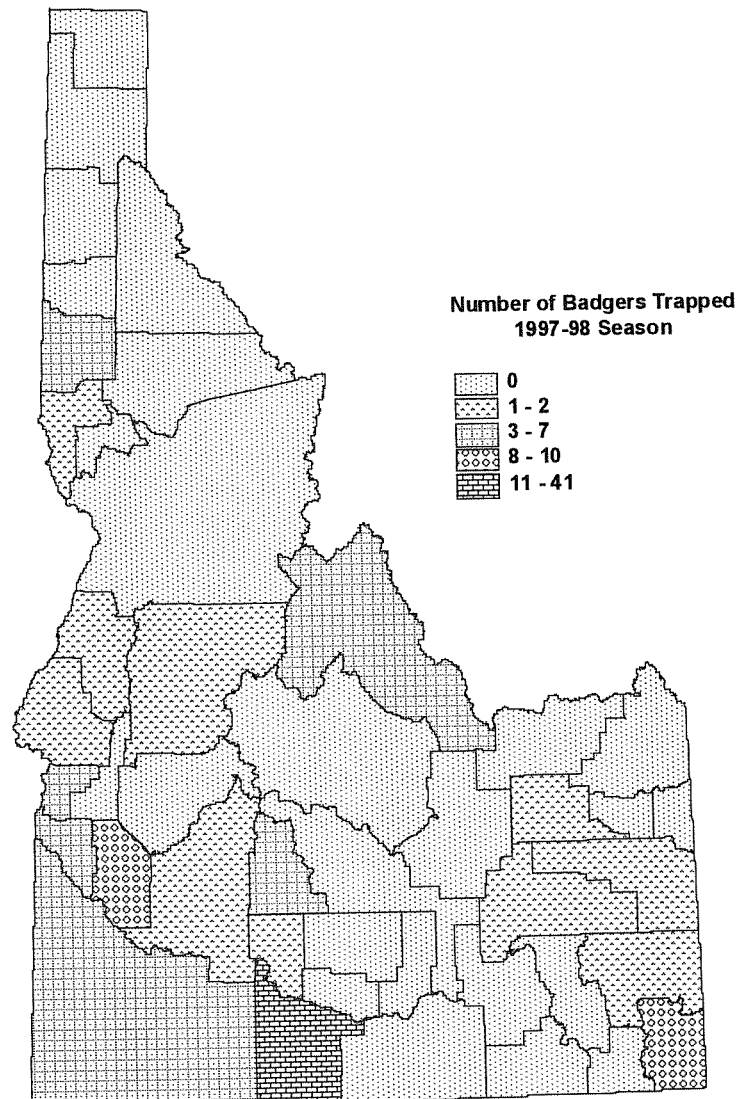


Fig. 2. Distribution of badgers harvested during the 1997-98 season.

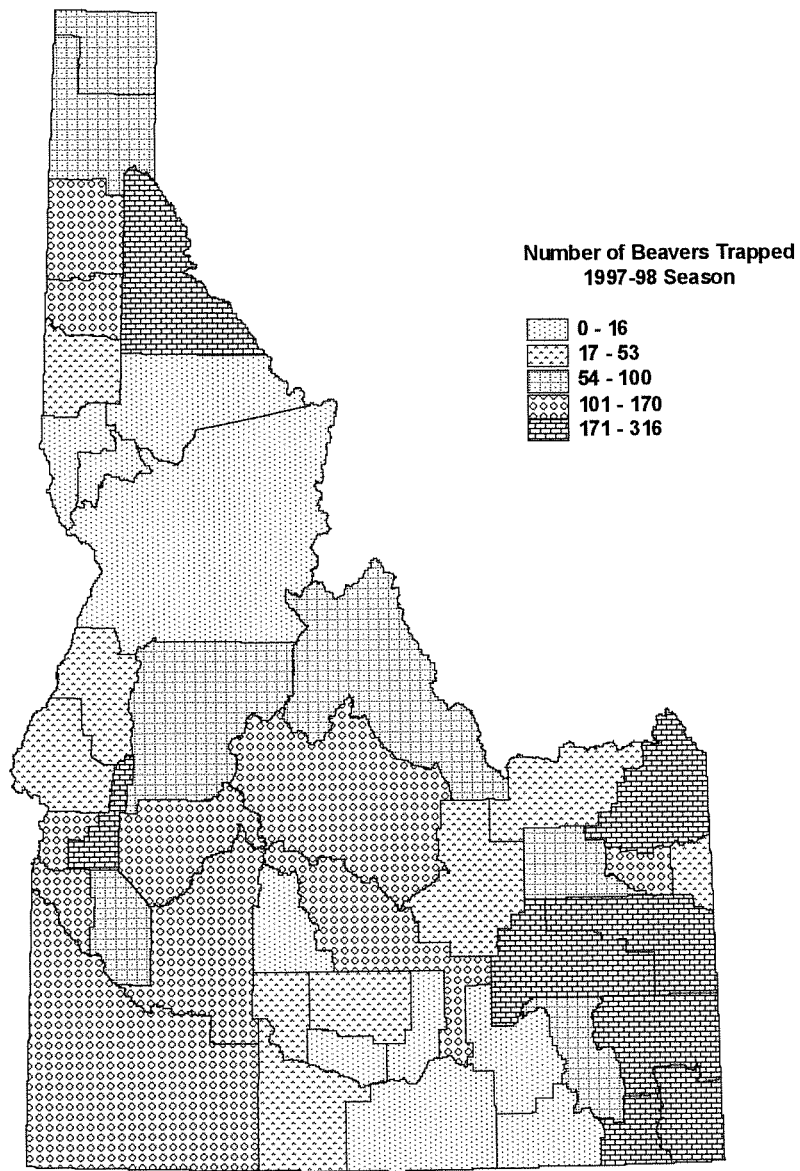


Fig. 3. Distribution of beavers harvested during the 1997-98 season.

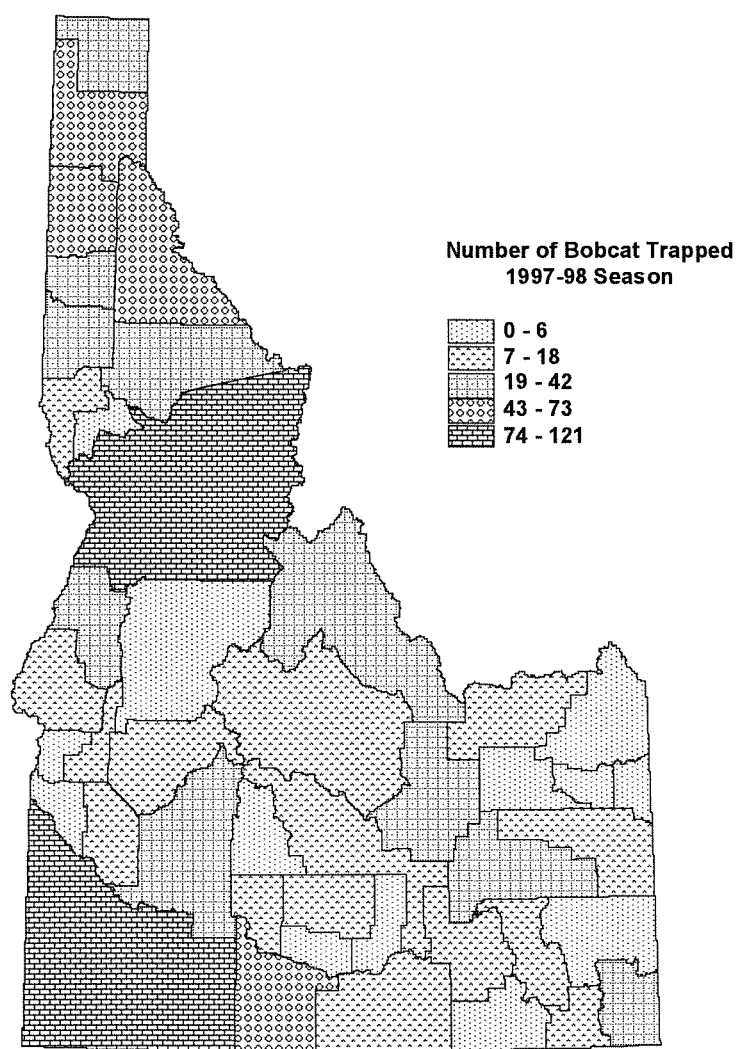


Fig. 4. Distribution of bobcats harvested during the 1997-98 season.

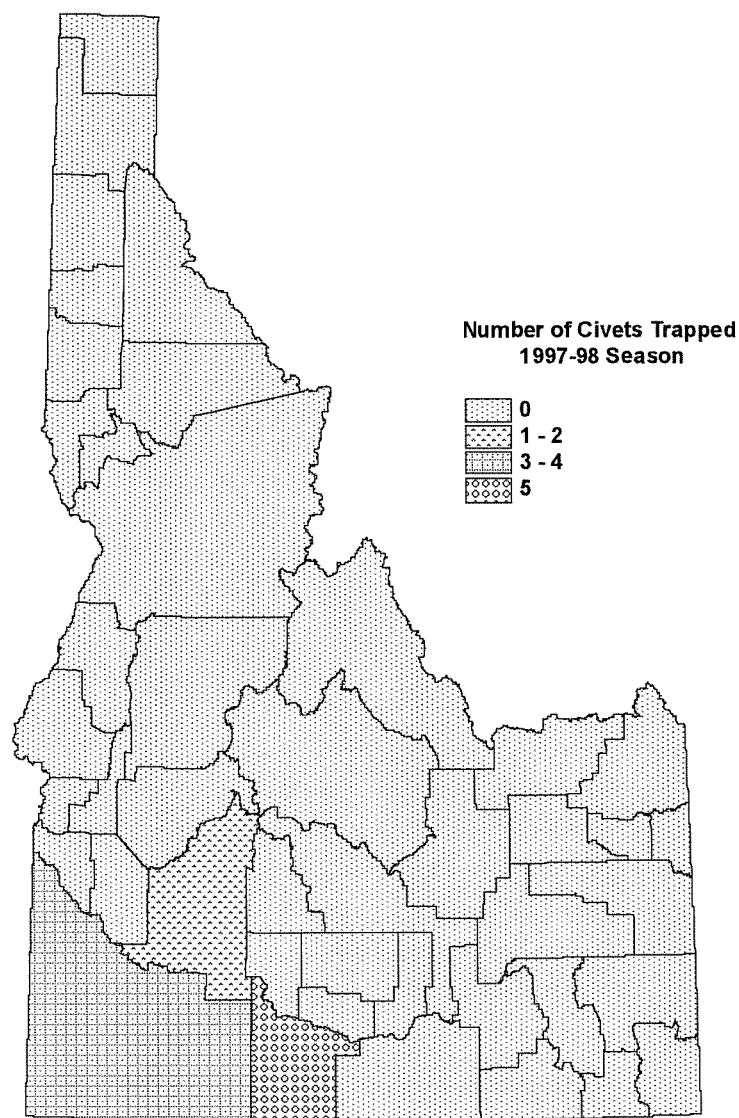


Fig. 5. Distribution of civets harvested during the 1997-98 season.

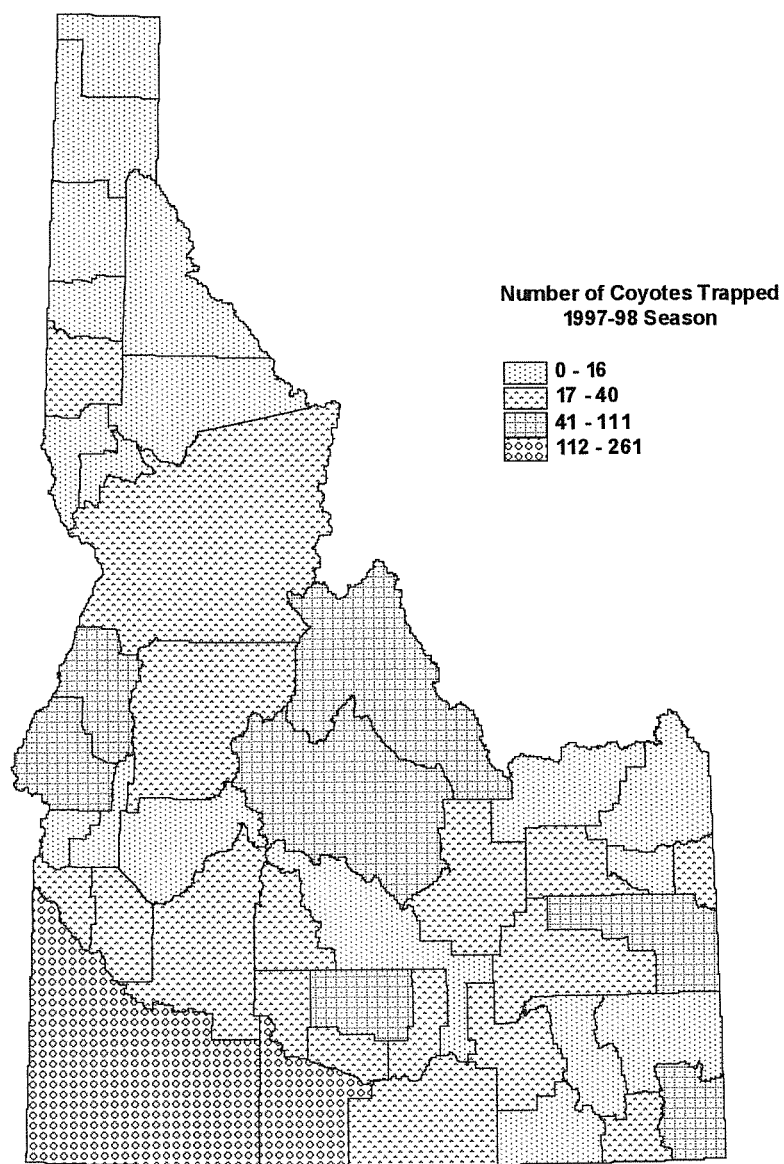


Fig. 6. Distribution of coyotes harvested during the 1997-98 season.



FURPR98

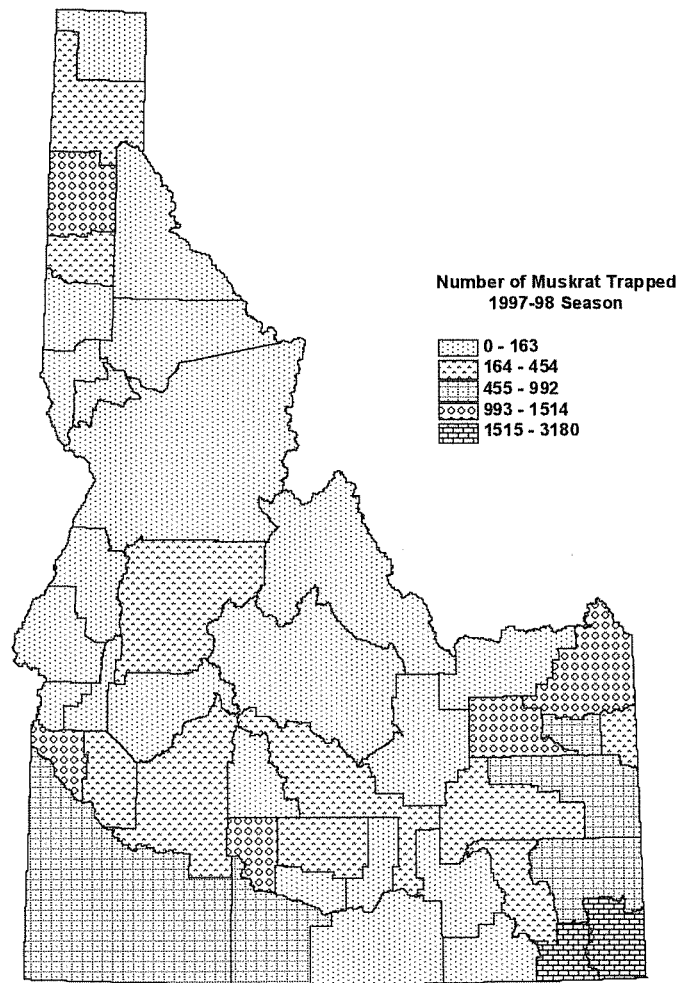


Fig. 8. Distribution of muskrat harvested during the 1997-98 season.

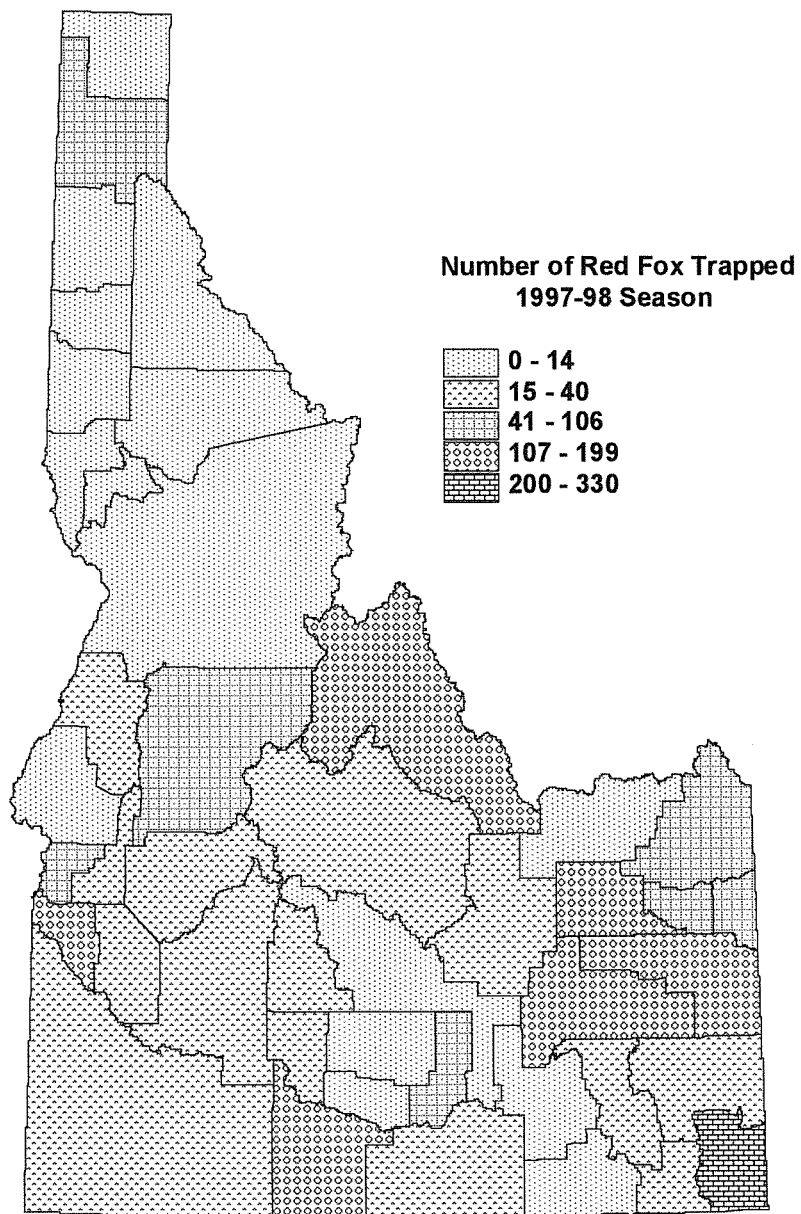


Fig. 9. Distribution of red foxes harvested during the 1997-98 season.

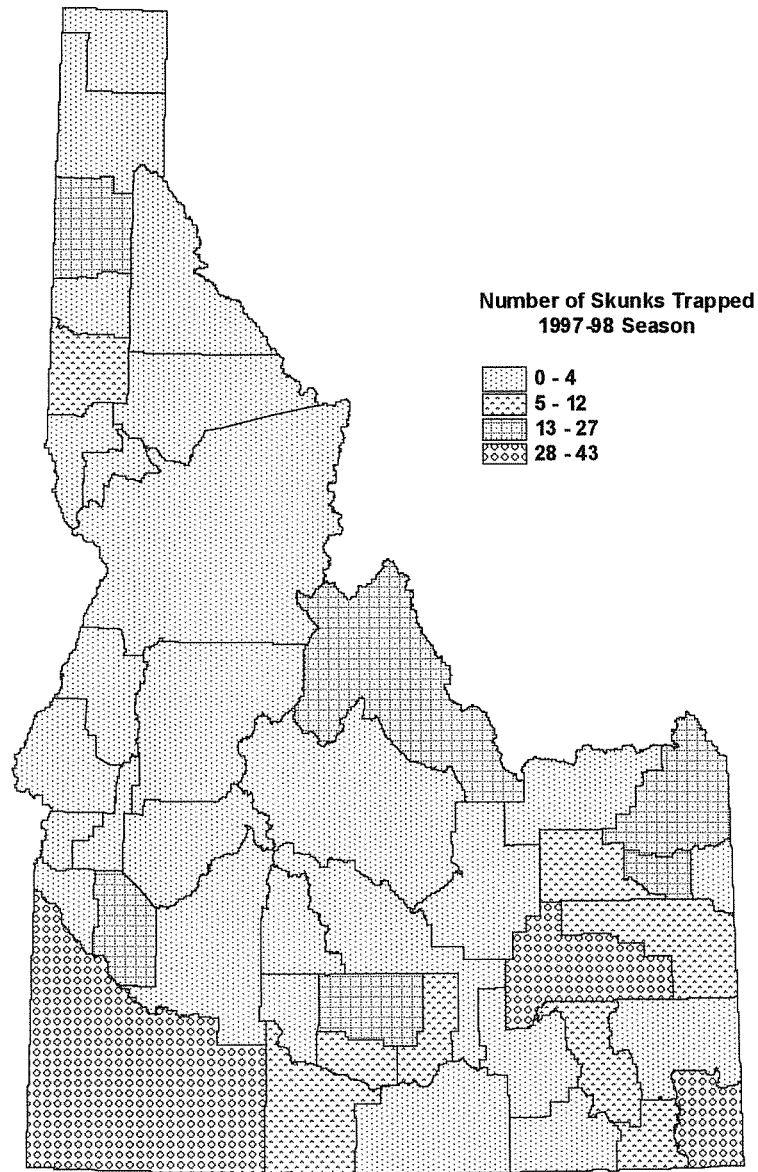


Fig. 10. Distribution of skunks harvested during the 1997-98 season.

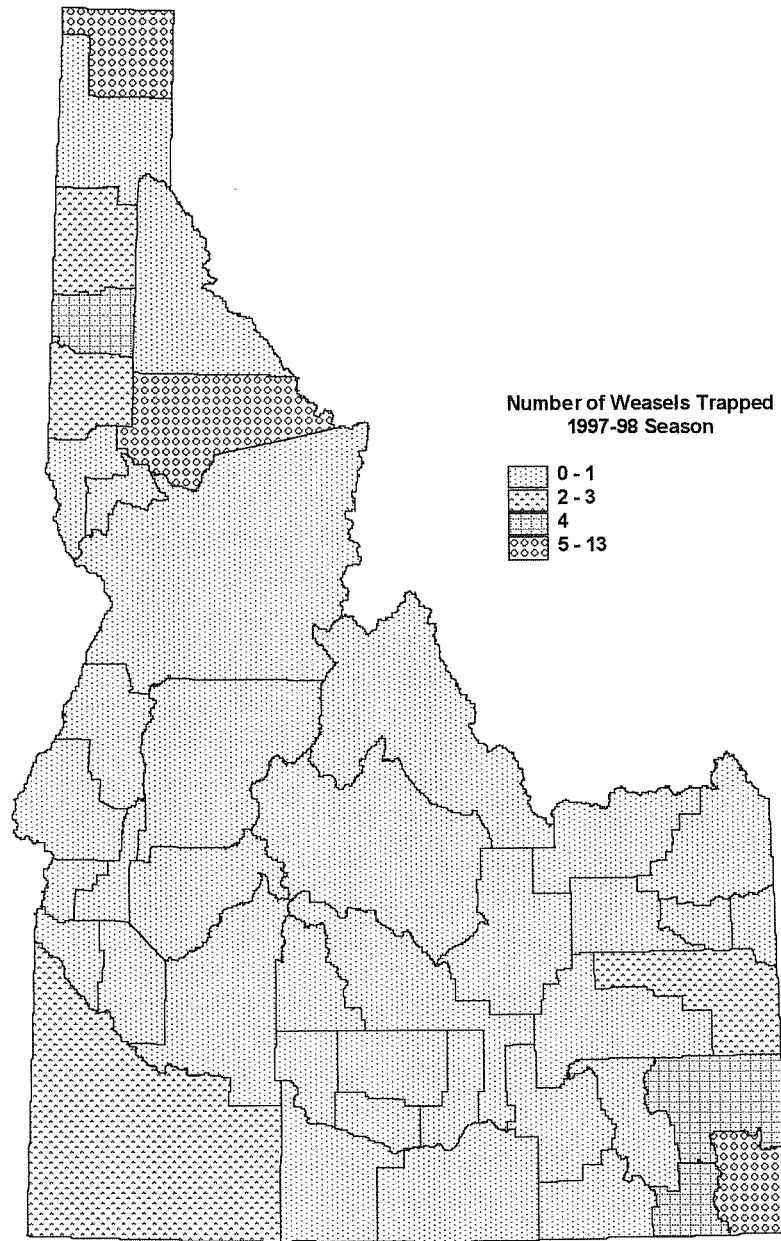


Fig. 11. Distribution of weasels harvested during the 1997-98 season.

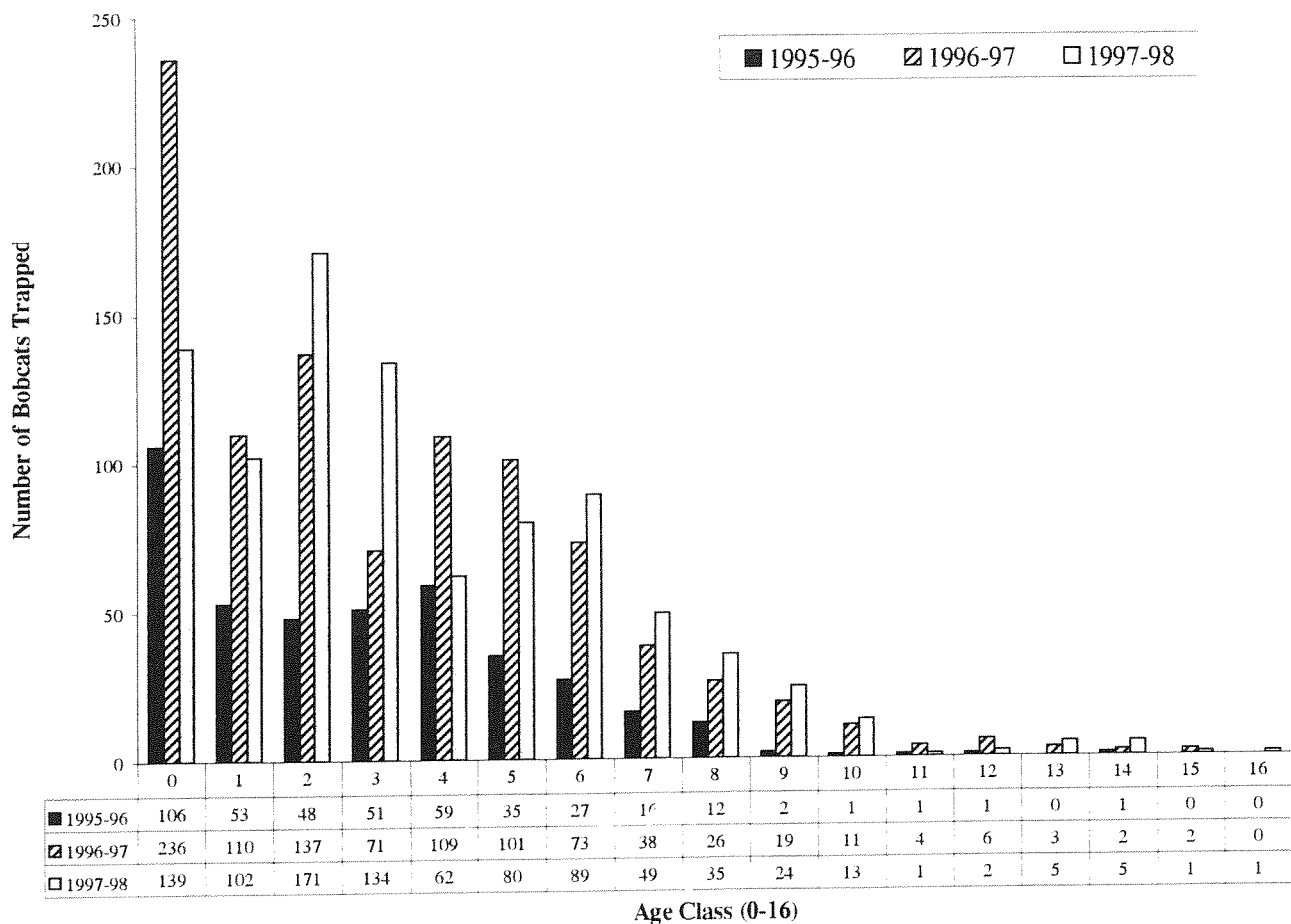


Fig. 12. Bobcat age distribution for 413 animals harvested in the 1995-96 season, 948 animals harvested during 1996-97, and 913 animals harvested in the 1997-98 season. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.

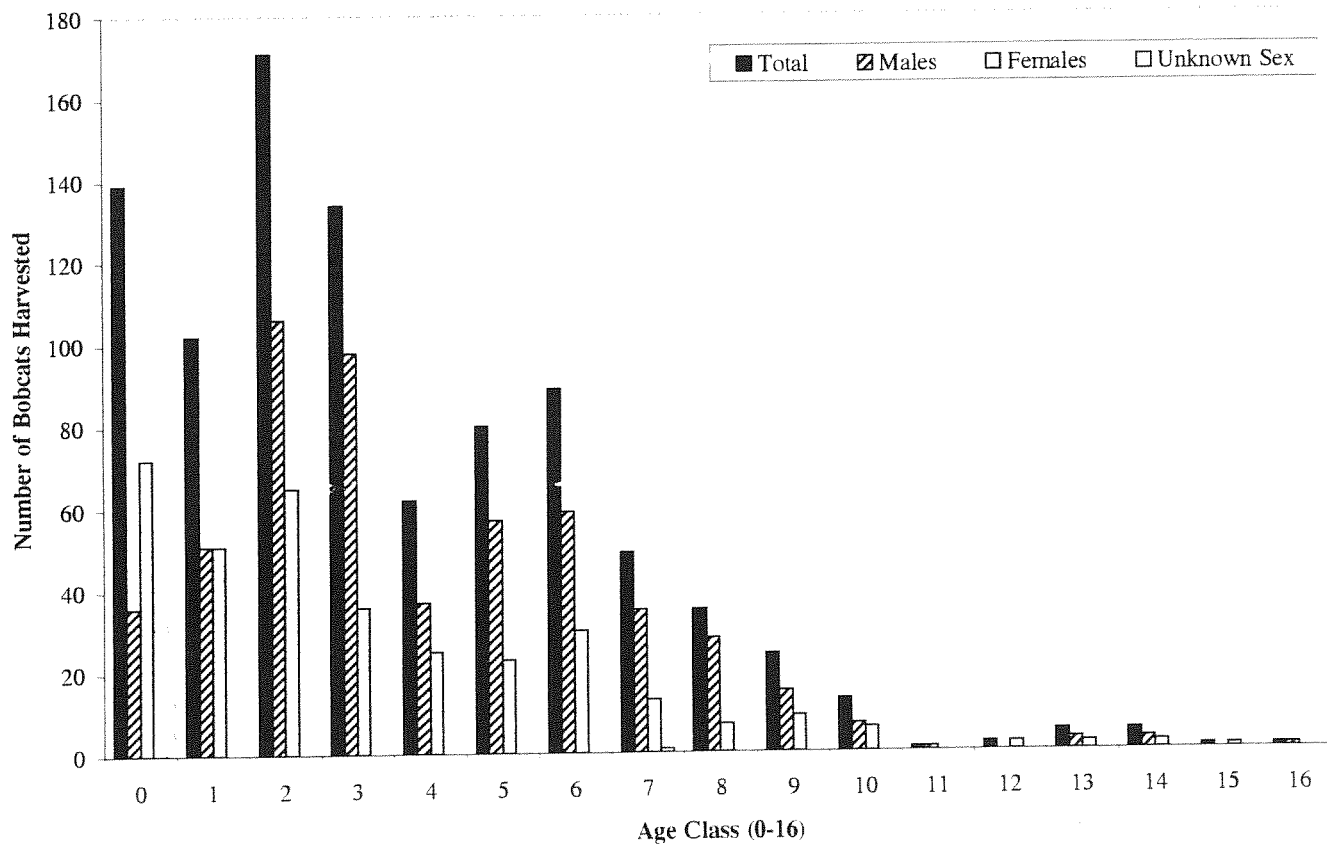


Fig.13. Bobcat age distribution and gender among 913 animals harvested during the 1997-98 season. Age was based on canine tooth examination and cementum analysis.

APPENDIX 1

MANDATORY TRAPPER REPORT CARD

Please fold and seal with transparent tape.

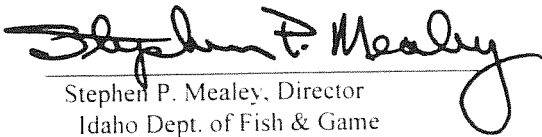
MANDATORY TRAPPER REPORT

Dear Idaho Trapper:

Idaho Law (Section 36-1105) states: "By the 31st of July each year, the Director shall be furnished with an accurate, written report from all persons who held a trapping license during the preceding license year as to the number and kinds of wild animals caught, killed and pelted during the open season, where the hides and pelts were sold, and the amount derived from the sale thereof. Any trapper failing to make such a report by said date shall be refused a license to trap animals for the ensuing year." Because Section 36-1105, Idaho Code, will be enforced, please make sure you complete and return this report card by July 31 whether or not you plan on trapping next year. Similar trapper report cards will be provided for future reporting.

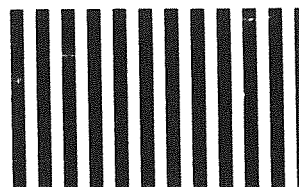
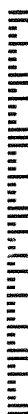
During 1996-97, the bobcat season length was extended from 1 month (December) to 2 months (December and January). In last year's mandatory trapper report, we requested your input regarding this change and other aspects of trapping in Idaho. A summary of this information and the 1996-97 season are included in this mailing. Trapping has been challenged in the past and will undoubtedly be challenged in the future. Our best defense is good information, so I can't impress upon you enough how important it is for you to fill out and return this report card. REMEMBER, YOU MUST RETURN THE MANDATORY REPORT CARD BY JULY 31 IF YOU PLAN ON TRAPPING IN 1998-99.

Thanks very much for your cooperation and good luck on the trapline!


Stephen P. Mealey, Director
Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

Please fold and seal with transparent tape.

WILDLIFE BUREAU
IDAHO DEPARTMENT FISH & GAME
PO BOX 25
BOISE ID 83707-9973



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

I spent a total of _____ days afield trapping (scouting, setting and checking traps).
On an average day, I spent about _____ hours afield, including travel time.

Pelts were sold to (Company Name, City & State) _____

Commission Rules (IDAPA 13 Q) define non-target species as any species caught for which the season is closed. Please record your non-target catches in the space below and indicate if the animal was dead (D) or released alive (A). Use space on opposite page if necessary.

I hereby certify that the above is a true list of the animals caught by me

Date _____

Trapping License Number _____

About the time you receive this, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will publish a proposed rule in the Federal Register to list the Canada lynx in the contiguous United States under the Endangered Species Act. The potential impact this could have on harvesting other furbearers has yet to be determined. Please let us know if you can provide the Department with information that has not been reported about the current and past status and distribution of lynx and snowshoe hares in Idaho.

Thank you for your assistance. Please feel free to provide comments or suggestions regarding trapping furbearers in Idaho.

[illegible]

APPENDIX 2

1996 AND 1997

FURBEARER HARVEST REGULATIONS

1996 and 1997

Furbearer Harvest Rules

General Information

It Is Unlawful: (See Also: It Is Unlawful, Page 7)

- To trap without a valid trapper's license.
- To destroy or damage a muskrat or beaver house.
- To trap in or on a muskrat house.
- To destroy, disturb or remove any traps belonging to others.
- To use any part of any game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife for bait or scent in trapping furbearing animals, and either unprotected or predatory wildlife.
- To set, place or stake any trap or snare during the closed season.
- To possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.
- To hunt wildlife, except raccoon, by the aid of a spotlight, flashlight, or artificial light of any kind. Hunting of unprotected or predatory animals with artificial light is allowed when hunting on private property with written permission of the landowner.
- To buy furs without a valid fur buyers license.

Resident Trapping License

A valid Resident Trapping License is required to trap furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife. This license may be obtained by a person who is a bona fide resident of the state of Idaho.

Nonresident Trapping License

A valid Nonresident Trapping License is required to trap furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife. This license may be obtained by a person who is not a resident of the state of Idaho, providing the state of residence of said person grants similar trapping license privileges to nonresidents.

Hunting License

A valid hunting license is required to hunt any predatory or unprotected wildlife, or furbearers for which hunting is allowed (bobcat, raccoon, red fox and badger).

Definitions

Drainage is defined as the geographic region or area that provides water to a specific stream, river, pond, lake, or reservoir. It includes the specific body of water and all its tributaries.

"Trapping" shall mean taking, killing and capturing wildlife by the use of any trap, snare, deadfall, or other device commonly used to capture wildlife, and the shooting or killing of wildlife lawfully trapped, and includes all lesser acts such as placing, setting, or staking such traps, snares, deadfalls, and other devices, whether or not such acts result in the taking of wildlife, and every attempt to take and every act of assistance of any other person in taking or attempting to take wildlife with traps, snares, deadfalls, or other devices.

Furbearing animals are defined as the following species: marten, fisher, mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, bobcat, lynx, red fox (includes all color phases found in Idaho), raccoon, and badger.

Predatory wildlife is defined as the following species: coyote, jackrabbit, skunk, and weasel.

Threatened or endangered wildlife (See page 6).

Protected nongame wildlife (See page 6).

Unprotected wildlife is defined as all animals OTHER than those classified by the Fish and Game Commission as big game animals, upland game animals, game birds, game fish, crustacea, migratory birds, furbearing animals, threatened or endangered wildlife, protected nongame wildlife or predatory wildlife.



Identification Tags for Traps

All traps or snares, except those used for pocket gophers, ground squirrels or other unprotected rodents, shall have attached to the snare or the chain of every trap, a metal tag bearing in legible English the name and current address of the trapper; or a six-digit number assigned by the Department. Any person wishing to mark his or her traps and/or snares with a six-digit number must make application to the Department at a subregional office, regional office, or the headquarters office. Any person who has been assigned a six-digit number to mark his or her traps and/or snares must notify the Department in writing at a subregional office, regional office, or the headquarters office within 30 days of any change in address.

CONTROLLED TRAPPING PERMITS

No person may trap in a controlled trapping unit for the designated species without having a valid permit for that controlled trapping unit in possession.

In the event that a permit is issued based on erroneous information, the permit will be invalidated by the Department and may NOT be used. The Department will notify the permittee of the invalidation of the permit. The person will remain on the drawn list, and if there is a waiting period in a succeeding year, the person will be required to wait the specified time period.

Eligibility

Any person possessing a valid Idaho trapping license is eligible to apply for a controlled trapping unit permit.

Applications

Applications for controlled trapping permits shall be made on a form available at all Department offices and must be received at the Headquarters Office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 600 S. Walnut, P.O. Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, or postmarked not later than September 15 of each year.

Any application which is unreadable, has incomplete or incorrect trapping license numbers, or which lacks the required information or fee will be declared void and will not be entered in the drawing. All applications will be considered final. They may not be resubmitted after correction.

Applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- No person may submit more than one application for a controlled beaver trapping permit or a controlled muskrat and mink trapping permit.
- No group applications will be accepted.

Controlled Trapping Permit Drawing

- Applications that are not drawn for the first choice unit will automatically be entered into a second choice drawing, provided the second choice applied for has not been filled.
- If an insufficient number of first choice applications is received for a unit, remaining permits will be filled from applications listing the unit as a second choice.
- Any permits left unfilled after the second choice drawing may be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and must contact the person listed on the notice by October 14 to obtain the permit. The permittee, upon agreeing to follow trapping instructions for the unit, will be issued a permit.

Revocation of Permits

Any permittee who does not comply with the following will have his or her permit revoked:

- The Fish and Game Code and these rules; or
- The instructions for the trapping unit.

Alternate Permittee

Any revoked permit may be issued to an alternate, selected at the time of the drawing. If there is no alternate, or the alternate fails to comply with rules listed in "Successful Applicants" section above, the permit may be issued to the first eligible trapper answering a notification of vacant trapping unit as approved by the Regional Supervisor.

Trapping Report

- All trappers shall fill out the trapping report on the back of the trapping license. Trappers shall return their licenses to the Department of Fish and Game, Box 25, Boise, Idaho 83707, by July 31. Licenses will be returned to trappers making such a request.
- All permittees shall return their controlled trapping unit permits and controlled trapping reports to the person from whom they obtained their controlled trapping unit permits within 10 days of the close of the season for the controlled trapping unit.

Traps

Checking Traps

No person shall place snares or traps for furbearing animals, predatory or unprotected wildlife, **EXCEPT** pocket gophers, ground squirrels and other unprotected rodents, without visiting every trap or snare once every 72 hours and removing any catch therein.

Trappers acting under authority of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control are exempt from this rule.

Removing Trapped Animals of Another

No person shall remove wildlife from the trap or snare of another **EXCEPT** licensed trappers with written permission from the owner.

Release of Non-Target Catches

All non-target species caught **alive** shall be released immediately. **NON-TARGET SPECIES ARE DEFINED AS ANY SPECIES CAUGHT FOR WHICH THE SEASON IS CLOSED.**

Any trapper who catches a non-target species that is **dead** shall:

- Prior to removing the animal, note on the back of the trapping license, the species of animal caught, the date and shall sign his or her name.
- Remove the animal from the trap and take it into possession.
- Notify the Department of Fish and Game through the local conservation officer, subregional or regional office within 72 hours to make arrangements to transfer the animal to the Department.
- The Department will reimburse trappers \$5.00 for each lynx, otter, or fisher caught accidentally and turned in.

Methods of Take

Furbearing Animals

No person shall take beaver, muskrat, mink or marten by any method other than trapping. In Valley County, red fox may be taken only by trapping.

Hunting

No person hunting permissible furbearing animals (badger, bobcat, raccoon, and red fox) or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Hunt with any weapon the possession of which is prohibited by state or federal law.
- Hunt with dogs unless they comply with Rules Governing the Use of Dogs (IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 15). See "Use of Hunting Dogs," page 26.
- Hunt any furbearing animal, except raccoon, with or by the aid of artificial light.
- No person hunting raccoon at night shall:
 - Hunt from a motorized vehicle.
 - Use any light utilizing more than 4.5 volts of electricity.
 - Use any light attached to any motor vehicle.
 - Hunt on private land without obtaining written permission from the landowner or lessee.

Wounding – Retrieving

No person shall wound or kill any furbearer by hunting without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it and reduce it to possession. Every furbearer wounded by hunting and reduced to possession shall be killed immediately. No person shall possess a live furbearer taken from the wild.

Trapping

No person trapping furbearing animals or predatory or unprotected wildlife shall:

- Use for bait or scent, any part of any game bird, game animal, game fish, or protected nongame wildlife.
- Use any dry land set within thirty (30) feet of any visible bait except bleached bones of furbearers, unprotected or predatory wildlife.
- Use a dirt hole set with bait unless the person ensures that the bait remains covered at all times to protect raptors and other meat-eating birds from being caught accidentally.

Use of Hunting Dogs

Dogs may be used to hunt or pursue ONLY the following wildlife, ONLY under the conditions listed, and ONLY if not prohibited by current rules:

1. **Upland Game Animals and Game Birds.** To train on or hunt upland game animals and game birds.
2. **Taking With Conditions:** To take black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, fox, raccoon, unprotected and predatory wildlife provided that the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is an open take season in the area to be hunted.
 - b. Use of dogs is allowed during the take season in the area to be hunted.
 - c. Firearm season for deer or elk is closed in the area to be hunted (EXCLUDING muzzleloader hunts and EXCLUDING controlled hunts during September and from November 25 to December 31).
 - d. The following persons must have a valid Hound Hunter's Permit in possession when dogs are being run in the field:
 - Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
 - Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
3. **To Pursue With Conditions:** To pursue black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, and raccoon provided that the following conditions are met:
 - a. There is an open dog training season in the area to be hunted.
 - b. Firearm season for deer or elk is closed in the area to be hunted (EXCEPT dogs may be used during muzzleloader hunts and/or during controlled hunts during September and from November 25 to December 31).
 - c. The following persons must have a valid Hound Hunter's Permit in possession when dogs are being run in the field:
 - Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
 - Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.

Hound Hunter's Permit

The following persons **must** have a valid Hound Hunter's Permit in possession when dogs are being run in the field:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.

A resident Hound Hunter's Permit may be obtained from a license vendor. There is no limit on the number of resident Hound Hunter Permits available. Nonresident Hound Hunter Permits are available only at Department of Fish and Game offices.

All 1996 nonresident Hound Hunter Permits have been issued. Procedures for nonresidents to apply for 1997 nonresident Hound Hunter Permits will be available from Department offices in November.

Mandatory Check and Report

Bobcat. Any person taking bobcat whether by hunting or trapping must comply with the mandatory check and report and pelt tag requirements by:

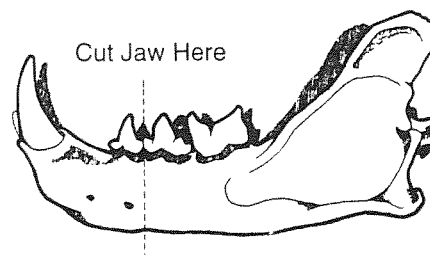
- Presenting the lower jaw of all bobcat taken to a regional office, subregional office or official check point and completing the relevant harvest report.

- Presenting the pelts of all bobcat taken to a regional office, subregional office or official check point to obtain the appropriate pelt tag. To have a pelt tagged, the pelt must be legally taken in Idaho and must be presented to a regional office or subregional office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or designated check-in point during normal working hours—8 a.m.-5 p.m.

A fee of \$2.00 will be charged for each pelt tag.

No person shall have in possession, except during the open season and for 10 days after the close of the season, any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached (either Idaho's or another state's official export tag).

No person shall sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase any raw bobcat pelt which does not have an official state export tag attached.



Trapping on Game Preserves and Wildlife Management Areas:

All state game preserves and Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Management Areas are open to the taking of furbearing animals by licensed trappers during the open season declared for the areas in which they lie.

However, the Billingsley Creek, Hagerman, Niagara Springs and Sterling Wildlife Management Areas are open to muskrat and mink trapping by controlled trapping permit only.

Trappers who are trapping on any of the following Wildlife Management Areas must contact or register either at the management headquarters or the regional office: Billingsley Creek, Boise River, Brownlee, Camas Prairie Centennial Marsh, Carey Lake, Cartier Slough, C.J. Strike, Coeur d'Alene River, Craig Mountain, Fort Boise, Hagerman, Market Lake, McArthur Lake, Montpelier, Mud Lake, Niagara Springs, Payette, Portneuf, Sand Creek, Snow Peak, Sterling, and Tex Creek.

Closed Areas

Hunting, trapping, killing or molesting of furbearing animals, predatory and unprotected wildlife is prohibited in the following areas except as provided in Idaho Code Section 36-1107:

- **Craters of the Moon National Monument** in Blaine and Butte counties.
- **Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Twin Falls County.**
- **Idaho National Engineering Laboratory** site in Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Clark and Jefferson counties.
- **Nez Perce National Historical Park** in Clearwater, Idaho, and Nez Perce counties.
- **That portion of Ada County:**
 - Within Veterans Memorial Park.
 - Within one quarter mile of the Boise River from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Glenwood Bridge.
 - Between State Highway 21 and the New York Canal from the New York Canal Diversion Dam downstream to the Boise City limits.
- **Stanley Creek Wildlife Interpretive Area in Custer County.**
- **Yellowstone National Park** in Fremont County.
- **On any of those portions of State game preserves, State wildlife management areas, bird preserves, bird refuges, and bird sanctuaries** for which trapping closures have been declared by legislative or Commission action.
- **All or portions of national wildlife refuges, EXCEPT** as specified in federal regulations for individual refuges.

Common Season Boundaries

Whenever a stream or river forms a boundary between two different trapping areas for the same furbearer, the stream or river channel proper shall open for trapping on the earliest opening date and close on the latest closing date of the two seasons involved.

General Trapping and Hunting Seasons				
SPECIES	PANHANDLE REGION	CLEARWATER REGION	SOUTHWEST REGION	MAGIC VALLEY REGION
	Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties	Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington Counties	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties
BADGER ●	Jul 1 - Jun 30	Jul 1 - Jun 30	Jul 1 - Jun 30	Jul 1 - Jun 30
BEAVER	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31 EXCEPT Clearwater Co: East Fork Pottlatch River drainage—CLOSED. EXCEPT Idaho Co: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Chamberlin Cr., main stem of Middle Fk. Clearwater R. from Maggie Cr. upstream, main stem of Lochsa R., Secesh R. above the Long Gulch Bridge, and main stem of Selway R.—CLOSED. EXCEPT Latah Co: —CLOSED. EXCEPT Nez Perce Co: All northern tributaries to the Salmon R. downstream from but excluding Maloney Cr., and all tributaries to the Snake R. below the mouth of the Salmon R.	Nov 1 - Mar 31 EXCEPT Ada & Boise Cos: The Boise River WMA—CLOSED. EXCEPT Elmore Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Bear Cr. (trib. to Feather R.), Case Cr., Fall Cr. upstream from and including Meadow Cr., Clover Cr., King Hill Cr., Lime Cr., Smith Cr. upstream from Washboard Cr., Syrup Cr., Trinity Cr., Willow Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.), and Wood Cr. (trib. to S. Fk. Boise R.). AND EXCEPT all lands within the Boise River WMA—CLOSED. EXCEPT Gem Co: Squaw Cr. above the Ola Bridge—CLOSED. EXCEPT Valley Co: Within the following drainages: Big Cr. upstream from Monumental Cr., Johnson Cr. upstream from Landmark, S. Fk. Salmon R. upstream from the fish trap near the mouth of Cabin Cr., Bear Valley Cr., and Sulphur Cr.—CLOSED.	Nov 1 - Mar 31 EXCEPT Blaine Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Wood R. upstream from North Fork Big Wood R., Big Wood R. tributaries below N. Fk. Big Wood R. to Magic Res., Camp Cr., Dry Cr., Friedman Cr., N. Fk. Big Wood R., Poison Cr., Rock Cr., Copper Cr. (trib. to Muldoon Cr.), Cove Cr., and Sheep Cr. AND EXCEPT all lands within the Little Fish Cr. and the Cold Spring Cr. drainages (trib. to Little Wood R.)—CLOSED. EXCEPT Camas Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Deer Cr., Corral Cr. above Baseline Road, Elk Cr., Lime Cr., Little Smoky Cr., and Willow Cr.—CLOSED. EXCEPT Cassia Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Big Cottonwood Cr., Dry Cr., Trapper Cr. and Trout Cr. —CLOSED. EXCEPT Gooding Co: All public lands within the following drainages: Black Canyon Cr., Clover Cr., and Thorn Cr. and EXCEPT all lands within Hagerman and Niagara Springs WMAs—CLOSED. EXCEPT Lincoln Co: Preacher Cr. drainage on public lands—CLOSED. EXCEPT Twin Falls Co: All public lands within the Goose Cr., McMullen Cr. and Shoshone Cr. drainages—CLOSED.
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> CLOSED STATEWIDE There is NO open season for fisher, kit fox, lynx, otter, wolverine or wolf. </div>				
● Indicates species can also be hunted.				
(General Seasons Continued on Next Page)				
BOBCAT ●	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31

General Trapping and Hunting Seasons			
SPECIES	<u>SOUTHEAST REGION</u>	<u>UPPER SNAKE REGION</u>	<u>SALMON REGION</u>
	Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power Counties	Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jefferson, Madison & Teton Counties	Custer & Lemhi Counties
BADGER ●	Jul 1 - Jun 30	Jul 1 - Jun 30	Jul 1 - Jun 30
BEAVER	<p>Oct 22 - Apr 15</p> <p>EXCEPT Bannock Co: Cherry Cr. (trib. to Marsh Cr.), Dempsey Cr. above cattleguard, Mink Cr. drainage, and Gibson Jack Cr. —CLOSED.</p> <p>EXCEPT Bear Lake Co: Pearl Cr. drainage —CLOSED.</p> <p>EXCEPT Bingham Co: Cedar Cr. and Miner Cr. —CLOSED.</p> <p>EXCEPT Caribou Co: Dike Lake, Toponce Cr. drainage on National Forest lands, and Pebble Cr. drainage —CLOSED.</p> <p>EXCEPT Franklin Co: Logan R. drainage including the Beaver Cr. and White's Cr. drainages —CLOSED.</p>	<p>Oct 22 - Apr 15</p> <p>EXCEPT Clark Co: Within the following drainages: Edie Cr., Irving Cr., Miners Cr., Three Mile Cr., and West Camas Cr. upstream from Steele Cr. —CLOSED.</p>	<p>Oct 22 - Apr 15</p> <p>EXCEPT Custer Co: Marsh Cr. drainage —CLOSED.</p> <p>EXCEPT Lemhi Co: Dahlenega Cr. drainage —CLOSED.</p>
BOBCAT ●	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31	Dec 1 - Jan 31

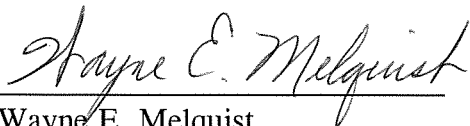
General Trapping and Hunting Seasons, continued

SPECIES	PANHANDLE REGION	CLEARWATER REGION	SOUTHWEST REGION	MAGIC VALLEY REGION
	Benewah, Bonner, Boundary, Kootenai & Shoshone Counties	Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, Lewis & Nez Perce Counties	Ada, Adams, Boise, Canyon, Elmore, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, Valley & Washington Counties	Blaine, Camas, Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka & Twin Falls Counties
FOX ●	Oct 15 - Jan 31	Oct 15 - Jan 31	July 1 - June 30 EXCEPT Adams Co: Little Salmon R. drainage—CLOSED. EXCEPT Valley Co: Open only on National Forests and State of Idaho lands; all other lands—CLOSED. (Fox may be taken by trapping ONLY.)	July 1 - June 30 EXCEPT Blaine Co: North and west of U.S. Hwy. 93—Oct 15 - Jan 31. EXCEPT Camas Co: Oct 15 - Jan 31.
MARTEN	Nov 1 - Jan 31	Nov 1 - Jan 31	Nov 1 - Jan 31	Nov 1 - Jan 31
MINK	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31 EXCEPT Gooding Co: Snake R. between Niagara Springs and Clear Lakes Bridge; and Billingsley Cr., Hagerman, Niagara Springs WMAs—CLOSED. EXCEPT Twin Falls Co: All man-made canals under control of Twin Falls Canal Co. and those sections of Cedar Draw Cr., Cottonwood Cr., Deep Cr., McMullen Cr. and Rock Cr. and their tributaries north of the Main and Highline Canals—Oct 15 - Mar 31.
MUSKRAT	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31 EXCEPT Gooding Co: Snake R. between Niagara Springs and Clear Lakes Bridge; and Billingsley Cr., Hagerman, Niagara Springs WMAs—CLOSED. EXCEPT Twin Falls Co: All man-made canals under control of Twin Falls Canal Co. and those sections of Cedar Draw Cr., Cottonwood Cr., Deep Cr., McMullen Cr. and Rock Cr. and their tributaries north of the Main and Highline Canals—Oct 15 - Mar 31.
RACCOON ●	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31	Nov 1 - Mar 31

General Trapping and Hunting Seasons, continued			
SPECIES	<u>SOUTHEAST REGION</u> Bannock, Bear Lake, Bingham, Caribou, Franklin, Oneida & Power Counties	<u>UPPER SNAKE REGION</u> Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Jef- ferson, Madison & Teton Counties	<u>SALMON REGION</u> Custer & Lemhi Counties
FOX ●	July 1 - June 30	July 1 - June 30	July 1 - June 30 EXCEPT Custer Co: Within the Big Lost R. drainage—Oct 15 - Jan 31.
MARTEN	Nov 1 - Jan 31 EXCEPT Bear Lake & Franklin Co:—CLOSED.	Nov 1 - Jan 31	Nov 1 - Jan 31
MINK	Oct 22 - Apr 15 EXCEPT Bingham Co: Sterling WMA —CLOSED.	Oct 22 - Apr 15 EXCEPT Jefferson Co: Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs—Nov 1- Nov 30.	Oct 22 - Apr 15
MUSKRAT	Oct 22 - Apr 15 EXCEPT Bingham Co: Sterling WMA —CLOSED.	Oct 22 - Apr 15 EXCEPT Jefferson Co: Mud Lake and Market Lake WMAs—Nov 1- Nov 30.	Oct 22 - Apr 15
RACCOON ●	Oct 22 - Apr 15	Oct 22 - Apr 15	Oct 22 - Apr 15


Controlled Mink and Muskrat Trapping Units			
Unit	Wildlife Management Area	Season Dates	No. of Permits
601	Billingsley Creek	Feb 15 - Feb 28	2
602	Hagerman	Feb 15 - Feb 28	4
603	Niagara Springs	Feb 15 - Feb 28	1
604	Sterling	Nov 1 - Mar 31	1
Controlled Beaver Trapping Units			
Unit	Season Dates	No. of Animals	
201	Nov 1 - Mar 31 That portion of the East Fork Potlatch River drainage in Latah and Clearwater counties.	10	
202	Nov 1 - Mar 31 That portion of the Palouse River drainage in Latah County upstream from Laird Park Dam.	10	
203	Oct 22 - Apr 15 That portion of the Mink Creek drainage in Bannock County excluding the West Fork of Mink Creek within the National Forest boundary.	20	
204	Oct 22 - Apr 15 That portion of the Toponce Creek drainage in Caribou County that is on National Forest lands.	10	
205	Oct 22 - Apr 15 Pebble Creek Unit in Caribou County. Pebble Creek drainage.	10	
Dog Training Seasons			
Bobcat		Raccoon	
Dog Training Season: Bobcat may NOT be killed during these seasons: Open annually after the close of the bobcat take season in February or March, concurrently with mountain lion take or dog training season. (See Current Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals, IDAPA 13, Title 01, Chapter 08.)		Dog Training Season: Raccoon may NOT be killed during these seasons: Open Statewide August 15 through October 31	

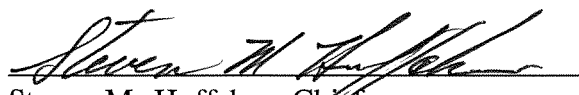
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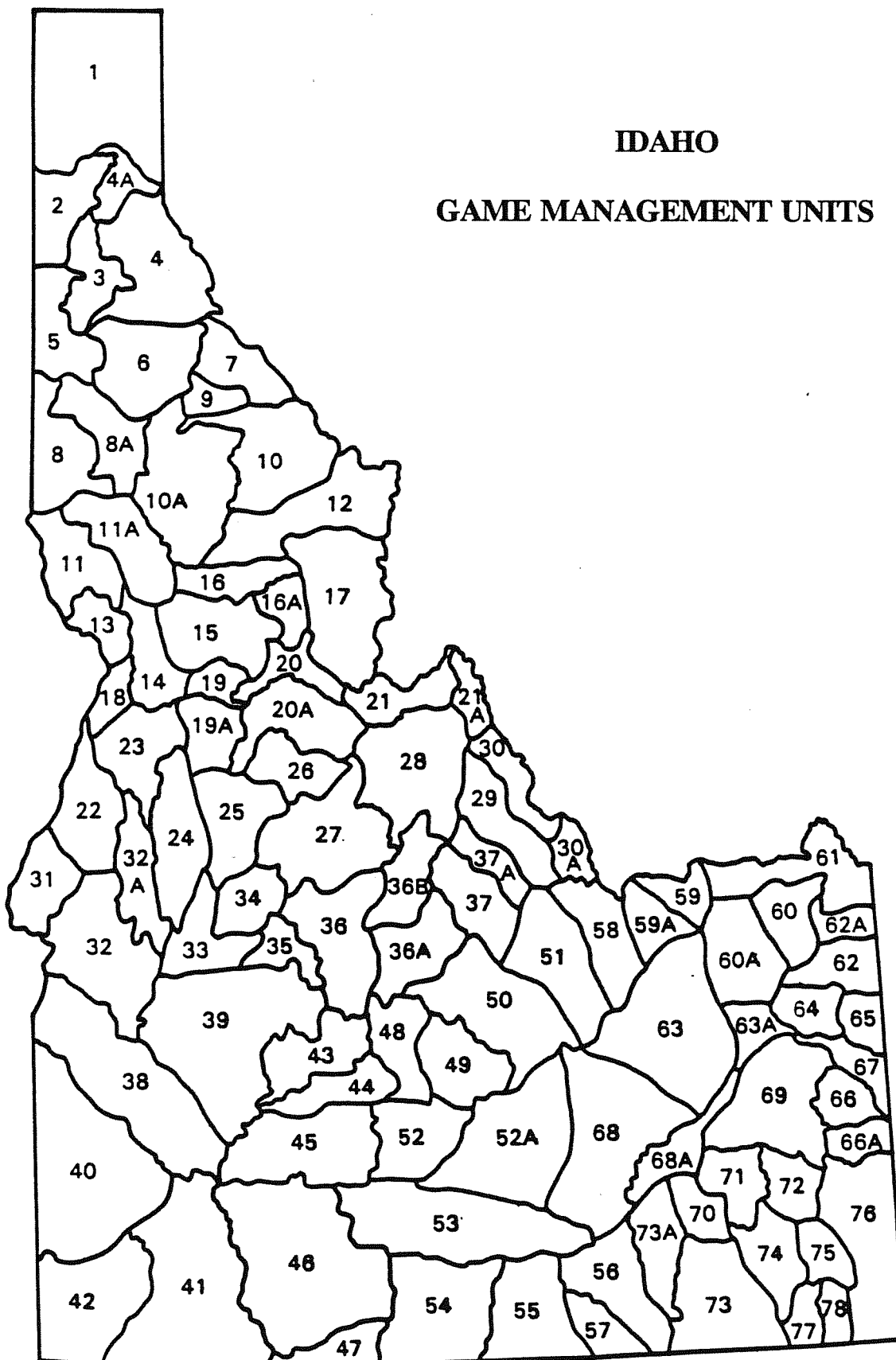

Wayne E. Melquist
State Furbearer Coordinator

Approved by:

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME


John Beecham
Wildlife Game and Research Manager
Federal Aid Coordinator


Steven M. Huffaker, Chief
Bureau of Wildlife



FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program consists of funds from a 10% to 11% manufacturer's excise tax collected from the sales of handguns, sporting rifles, shotguns, ammunition, and archery equipment. The Federal Aid program then allots the funds back to states through a formula based on each state's geographic area and the number of paid hunting license holders in the state. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game uses the funds to help restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals for the public benefit. These funds are also used to educate hunters to develop the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be responsible, ethical hunters. Seventy-five percent of the funds for this project are from Federal Aid. The other 25% comes from license-generated funds.

